(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) All the difficulties in registration of the new newspapers and magazines, have been resoved. The registration certificate in respect of application complete in all respect, is now issued within 45 days.

Licence fee on T.V.

†2161. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that now-a-days TV is a powerful medium of education alongwith entertainment;

(b) whether Government propose to impose licence fee on TV;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government would take to prevent the adverse effect on the education of children belonging to rural areas and poor and middle class as a result of imposing licence fee on TV?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary I&B was constituted on 30.03.2005 by the Government for suggesting a viable capital and financial structure of Prasar Bharati to strengthen its functioning. The Committee has dealt with a deliberated upon the restructuring options available and submitted its Report to the Government, which *inter-alia*, also includes a suggestion for introduction of license fee at an *ad-valorem* rate of 5%/10% on all the television sets at the point of production to fund the cost of Public Broadcasting. The Report is currently before the Group of Ministers (GoM), constituted by the Government to examine the various options pertaining to functioning of Prasar Bharati. Hence taking any sort of steps in this direction, including the issue of licence fee on TV and its subsequent impact, would depend on the decision of GoM.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.